



**1099th meeting of the
Pacific Coast Numismatic Society**
7:30PM Wednesday November 28, 2007
Building C, Fort Mason
San Francisco, California

Turkey coins
Everyone!

Pacific Coast Numismatic Society
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Please join us Wednesday November 28, 2007 for what has become a November tradition of member participation. The theme is Turkey coins and that can mean anything that you think it does.

1098th meeting. October 24, 2007 Numismatic sizzle! *Steve Huston* (reviewed by *Herb Miles*)

Stephen Huston, presented a slide show of a number of pieces from ancient to modern that needed “sizzle” in order to sell. As the old saying goes, don’t buy the sizzle, buy the steak, but Steve demonstrated that, indeed, it is the sizzle that truly sells!

For instance, an 1804 United States silver dollar, which is a fantasy made sometime after 1804 for presentation to several dignitaries, nevertheless will sell immediately when it comes on the market even though there may be several dozen pieces known. In contrast, one can purchase an 1804 George III English Bank Dollar for many thousands less although it too is popular because of its 1804 date.

Or, how about buying a coin or token because it is pedigreed to a famous collector or collection, i.e, the Washington pattern penny attributed to the Garrett sale? What happens after several sales of this item if the pedigree is lost during those sales. Since there are several pattern pennies, how is one to know which came from Garrett? Steve noted it may be better to purchase a Roman coin of Claudius, counterstamped in the field of the coin by a famous collector with his seal or mark! Now that is a pedigree one can trace. In addition, coins and tokens that are not photographed can never be accurately pedigreed to a famous collection as they cannot be identified reliably.

Coins that have “sizzle” include the shekel of Tyre, attributed to be one of the “30 pieces of silver” supposedly given to Judas for betraying Jesus. Reality is this is not really the coin that would have been circulating in that area of the world at that time. Also, the bronze Tiberius “tribute penny” is a coin that portrays a later Caesar, not the one that should have been pictured. However, mentioning the 30 pieces of silver or the tribute penny means that these coins will readily sell and for more money than if none of the “sizzle” attributes had never been mentioned.

Others that may have a similar sizzle are coins of Pontius Pilate, coins from Constantine the Great with early Christian symbols, the dracham picturing the Athenian owl, the well-known Corinthian stater which was minted not just at Corinth, but at more that 20 mints over a 100 year period. Coins of Elizabeth I of England bring considerably more at Renaissance Fairs than at coin shows selling ancient coins.

Likewise, coins portraying Hercules in a lion headdress attributed to lifetime portraits of Alexander the Great bring good sums over and above what the same coin would bring if Alexander is not mentioned. Famous personages always have sizzle, even if the coin portrays someone else; the seller just has to add a little spice and the sale is made.

Steve pictured coins of Frederick Barbarossa, Richard the Lionheart, Homer, Julius Caesar, Hannibal, Genghis Khan, Cleopatra the Great, and Harun al Rashid, the Caliph of "1001 Arabian Nights!" All of these pieces have sizzle because they portray or perhaps we would like to believe they portray famous people. Unfortunately, he has never found a coin portraying or having any reliable connection with *Joan of Arc*; too bad as such a piece might bring big bucks.

Steve ended his well photographed presentation with two local San Francisco pieces, one of Maggie Kelly, a notorious lady in SF's Barbary Coast, and the equally notorious 1000th Meeting Anniversary PCNS medal, which has a sizzle all its own...or not! (editor's note. The PCNS medals are still available at \$30 per set. Get them while they are hot!!)

October 2007 SHOW & TELL

Scott brought a number of high grade Sierra Leone slabbed pieces, probably the finest known of several versions of the Cent and half cent and the Babington & MacCauley token issue, all in glossy copper!

Mark, just back from Mexico, exhibited an Islam Temple badge from San Francisco, and a pot metal Chinese Junk piece, minted in England

Whalen brought a nice phone of the PPIE management committee, who met in Santa Cruz prior to the fair to plan all the activities, etc

October 2007 Raffle

Our Raffle raised \$25 and featured the following items and winners.

Don won a San Francisco Mint Uncirculated \$1 commemorative (one he had donated) so he donated it again for another raffle or suitable event for awarding

Mark took home a Utah Prison Token

And Whalen won something that was not recorded!

Important announcement!

Be sure to check the board on the ground floor near the elevator in Building C. The announced room is subject to change by Fort Mason management.

Granite Lady update (from the PCNS minutes)

We held a discussion on the recent news that ANA has decided not to pursue a museum within the Old Mint which is being refurbished by the San Francisco Historical Society. Whalen noted that he had written a letter to the ANA board, specifically to Clifford Mishler, and the reply was vague as to whether the board had abandoned both proposed museums, one in Washington, D.C. and one in San Francisco.

Don Kagin then arrived with specific news about the ANA board's actions in abandoning both sites and the reasons why. In addition, Don exhibited a letter in email form that he had received from Barry Stuppler, current ANA president, seeking Don's opinion on a message from Erik Christofferson, the SF Historical Museum's Executive Director that indicated the Museum's intent to keep the funds raised by coin collectors in the sales of the Old San Francisco Mint commemorative \$5 and \$1 coins. That sum is approximately \$4,000,000 and was designated in the legislation authorizing the commemoratives for preparing a part of the old Mint as an exhibit area dealing with the California Gold Rush and Western History and Mining with an emphasis on the coinage in the west.

It is Don's opinion and that of PCNS that those funds should not go the San Francisco Historical Society for their sole usage, but instead should be set aside for the purpose for which the commemoratives were authorized and it would be a disservice and a blow to numismatists in general if the funds were allowed to be confiscated in such a fashion.